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ILLINOIS AND RANDOLPH COUNTY.

Address Delivered at Chester, Illinois, July 4, 1918.

WILLIAM A. MEESE.

This is the 142d year in the history of our country when the people have suspended all labor and business and assembled in each city, town and hamlet to do honor to the day that is known far and wide as Independence Day.

When we think of the 142d yearly celebrations that have occurred throughout the land, not in one place in a state or country, but in every country district where a score of people could assemble, as well as in the populous towns and cities, to do honor to this most memorable day, we can but wonder and ask ourselves why this general day of rejoicing? Ask our school children and they will tell us that this is the day on which this country declared its independence of Great Britain. Therefore our forefathers set aside the Fourth of July as Independence Day, a day of thanksgiving and general rejoicing among all the people, a day when all should assemble, and the deeds of labor, the acts of patriotism, the years of suffering, the privations, the sorrow and the joy, the record of those trying times that laid the foundation and made us the greatest nation on this globe, should be recounted and retold, so that coming generations would rightly understand and learn of the heroes that made American history and the American nation.

The first knowledge of the Mississippi or "Great River," as it was termed by the red men, was imparted to the French Missionaries by the Sioux Indians, who came to Lake Superior in August, 1665, upon invitation of Father Claude Allouez when he established the first white settlement on that lake, and there lighted the torch of Catholicism, preaching the word of God to over twenty different Indian nations.

The first we know of the country known as Illinois is what the pious father says he heard of the great river to the west and the country where "they had no forests, but instead of them, vast prairies, where herds of deer and buffalo and other animals grazed on the tall grasses." These stories aroused his curiosity, for he wrote: "Their country is the best field for the gospel. Had I leisure I would have gone to their dwellings to see with my own eyes all the good that was told me of them."

The zeal of the French was aroused, and in 1673 Louis Joliet was commissioned by Jean Talon, the active and able intendant of New France to find this "great river that flowed southward to the sea" and to explore the regions through which it flowed. Joliet received as a companion Father Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit priest, who was to be his missionary chaplain, and whose purpose was to teach to the heathen the story of the Cross. In June, 1673, these two, in company of five French canoe or service men, left the palisaded mission of St. Ignace, opposite the Island of Mackinac, and in two bark canoes set out on their ever memorable trip.

Skirting the northern shore of Lake Michigan, they crossed Green Bay to the mission of St. Francis Xavier, where they secured two Miami guides, and from thence they made the portage to the Wisconsin River, where their guides left them. On the 17th day of June, 1673, these seven Frenchmen floated out upon the broad bosom of the Mississippi, which Marquette christened "Conception River."

When they came to the present boundary of Illinois is not known, but they floated down the Mississippi, and on the 24th day of June landed at the mouth of the Des Moines River. They continued their journey until the 19th day of July, when they turned the bow of their canoes up stream and commenced the return journey. On arriving at the mouth of the Illinois River they decided to go by that route and proceeded on their way, stopping at Peoria Lake, where there was an Indian town of several hundred cabins. From here they went up the river to the Indian village of Kaskaskia, where Utica now is. Here Marquette preached for three days the mysteries of his faith.

This was in September, 1673. The Indian village consisted of seventy-four cabins, and among these untutored

red men Father Marquette established the *first mission* in the Mississippi valley, which he named *the mission of the Immaculate Conception*, and later, when in 1700 the Kaskaskia Indians, to escape from their enemies, the Iroquois, removed to the Mississippi River, they located near where the last remnant of the village of Kaskaskia now is, retaining the old names for both mission and village.

It was in September when Joliet's party on their return trip arrived at the Chicago portage. From here they took canoes and sailed to St. Francis Xavier, on Green Bay, where Marquette, being sick, took refuge in the mission house, and Joliet started for Canada to report to his superior, Frontenac, Governor of Canada, the result of the voyage.

At Fort Frontenac Joliet met Robert Cavalier de LaSalle, who five years previous had discovered the Ohio River. Joliet had maps of the country through which he passed and had kept a journal of all that transpired, and imparted to LaSalle the results of his discovery.

Leaving Fort Frontenac Joliet started for Montreal, and when almost there the canoe in which he was traveling upset, and, unfortunately for his fame and fortune, all his baggage, containing maps, notes, etc., were cast into the St. Lawrence River and lost.

Marquette was detained at the mission of St. Francis Xavier during the whole summer of 1674. Having somewhat recovered, he on October 25 with two men set out for the Illinois. Crossing the peninsula which forms the eastern side of Green Bay, he coasted along the shores of Lake Michigan, accompanied by some Illinois and Pottawatomies. Owing to sickness his journey was slow and it was December 4 when he reached the Chicago River. The river was frozen, and on the 14th of the month, concluding to pass the winter here, he erected a cabin, which was the *first abode* of a white man within the limits of the present State of Illinois. On March 29, 1675, he again set out and arrived at Kaskaskia, on the Illinois River, on April 8.

His illness soon compelled him to start on the return journey, taking for his course the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. When his party arrived at a place now known as Sleeping Bear Point, Marquette breathed his last. This was

on May 18, 1675. His remains were buried where he died, but the next year they were removed by the Indians to the mission of St. Ignace, opposite Mackinaw. To this day, it is said, that storm-tossed mariners on Lake Michigan in the hour of peril invoke the prayerful intercession of the sainted Marquette.

Marquette also made maps of the country and took notes, which being published previous to Joliet's, gave to him, and not to Joliet, the leader and commander of the party, the glory of the discovery of the Mississippi. This voyage of these daring Frenchmen is the *first chapter* of Illinois history.

The Indians whom Joliet and Marquette met at the Des Moines River, when asked who they were, said they were "Illiniwek" or "Illini," meaning in their language "men" or "the men," not to be understood in a generic sense, but as significant of humane intentions, and to distinguish them from other Indians, whom the Illini termed *beasts*. "Illini" became the name of the Indians and of the country they inhabited, the French adding the "ois" of Illinois for euphony.

In August, 1679, Robert Cavalier de LaSalle, accompanied by Henry de Tonty and four priests, among whom was Father Louis Hennepin, sailed from the mouth of the Niagara for the Illinois. They made the portage from the Des Plaines to the Chicago River, thence by portage to the Kankakee and down that river to the Illinois, arriving at where Peoria now is about January 4, 1680. Here LaSalle built Fort Creve Cœur (Broken Heart). LaSalle's party established the first white settlement in the Illinois country, and to LaSalle is due the credit for first proposing "the union of New France with the Valley of the Mississippi, and suggesting their close connection by a line of military posts."

Five years before the Pilgrim Fathers landed on Plymouth Rock, Champlain, called the "father of Canada" or "New France," and the first to carry the flag of France into the heart of North America, reached a point in the interior a thousand miles from the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, anxious, as he said, "to see the lily flourish, and also the only religion, Catholic, apostolic and Roman." Owing to the Indian tribes being at war among themselves he was unable to push his explorations into the unknown West. Time and opportunity were not ripe for Champlain. Yet he was the pioneer dis-

coverer of this valley. Thus we see that to French enterprise and Catholic zeal is due the discovery of the upper Mississippi valley.

During the early part of the eighteenth century but little progress was made towards the settlement of the Illinois country. In 1712 Louis XIV of France granted to Anthony Crozat, a French merchant, the commerce of the whole valley of the Mississippi, known as Louisiana, but in 1717 Crozat relinquished his grant and his rights were transferred to the *Western Company*, of which John Law, a Scotchman residing in Paris, was the originator. Law's financial schemes aroused all France and everyone believed the golden era had at last arrived. Illinois at this time was brought under the government of Louisiana.

FORT CHARTRES.

In October, 1718, a detachment of French troops left Mobile for the Illinois. They came up the Mississippi, arriving at Kaskaskia late in the year. Their commander selected a spot on the Mississippi sixteen miles above the village where the first Fort Chartres was built. It was of stockade construction and was completed in the spring of 1720.

Immediately after the completion of the fort a village began to grow at its gates, where the Jesuit fathers established the parish of St. Anne de Fort Chartres. The first entry in the parish record was made in 1716. The first important arrival at the fort was that of Phillip Francois Renault, a Paris banker, who reached the fort before its completion. Renault brought with him 250 miners and soldiers and 500 negroes that he had bought in St. Domingo. This was the beginning of negro slavery in Illinois.

Fort Chartres was built to establish a chain of forts from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico—the dream of LaSalle, a “bulwark against Spain and a barrier to England, a protector of the infant colony and of the church which planted it.”

In 1748 Fort Chartres was out of repair and it was deemed best to abandon it. The troops were withdrawn and removed to Kaskaskia. In the autumn of 1748, a major of engineers, with a few companies of troops arrived from

France with orders to rebuild the fort, which he did, one and one-half miles above the first or old fort. Some time before 1754 it was completed. It was built of stone, 18 feet high, 490 feet long, and the walls were two feet and two inches thick. The walls were pierced with 48 loop holes for cannon. Within the walls was a banquette, raised three feet for the soldiers to stand on when they fired through the loop holes. Captain Pittman, who visited the fort in 1770, in writing about it said: "It is generally believed that this is the most convenient and best built fort in North America." The whole covered a little more than four acres.

No hostile shot was ever fired against the walls of the old or new fort. They, however, answered the purpose for which they were built, to keep in check the Indians and offer protection to the settlers.

Soldiers marched through the tall gate of the fort to attack and meet the hostile Indian tribes. Troops were also sent from the fort against the British, and right well did they respond to the call to arms.

On the 27th of May, 1754, N. Coulon de Jumonville de Villiers, a young French officer, while on a reconnoitering expedition was killed by the British. When the news reached the Illinois, Neyon de Villiers, a brother of the deceased Jumonville, asked Major Makarty, commandant at Fort Chartres, for leave to go and avenge the death of his brother. Permission was given and he set out with soldiers from the fort and a considerable force of Indians. The French marched to Fort Necessity, which was commanded by the young Colonel George Washington. On July 3 the fort was attacked. Washington surrendered, being given the honors of war. The French then returned to Fort Chartres.

De Villiers was a young man of fine character, as is evidenced by the terms of surrender.

Although Washington was in command at Fort Duquesne and it was his troops that ambushed Jumonville's troops, De Villiers allowed Washington with his weak detachment to march from the fort with the honors of war, his men carrying their military stores, baggage and all their arms, with the exception of their artillery. De Villiers' conduct was honorable and magnanimous.

In his report of the taking of Fort Necessity DeVilliers said: "On the 4th at dawn of day I sent a detachment to take possession of the fort. The garrison defiled, and the number of their dead and wounded excited my pity, in spite of the resentment which I felt for the manner in which they had taken away the life of my brother."

In 1755 General Braddock, with two British regiments and 1,000 provincials, started for Fort Duquesne. George Washington was one of his aids de camp. Seven miles from the fort the British were attacked by the French and Indians. The British were defeated and General Braddock was killed. Troops from Fort Chartres took part. Engagement followed engagement.

Soon it became apparent that the claim to territory could only be settled by a resort to arms. Both France and England now prepared to settle their territorial dispute by the sword. In May, 1756, Great Britain declared war on France. Great Britain's American colonies aggregated about one million and a quarter population, while France's population in her American colonies amounted to about one hundred thousand.

On February 10, 1763, Louis XV of France ratified a treaty of peace, which was signed at Paris, France ceding to Great Britain all the territory lying east of the middle of the Mississippi River, also Canada. French power in America was annihilated, and thus ended what is known as the "Old French and Indian War" or the "Seven Years' War," in which these two nations battled for possession of this continent.

Wolfe's victory over Montcalm on the plains of Abraham virtually ended the controversy, but although England in 1763 succeeded to power over this country, she had difficulty in assuming possession, owing to the aversion the Indians had to the British. Five attempts were made, but each failed, owing to the attacks of the forest chieftain, Pontiac. It was not until October 2, 1765, that Captain Sterling of the 42d Royal Highlanders, the Black Watch, arrived at Fort Chartres from Fort Pitt, and for the first time the whole country now comprised in the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin became English. The final chapter of

French supremacy in this country was written and the lilies of France, which had for sixty-five years floated over our prairies, gave way to the red cross of St. George.

In the spring of 1772 the waters of the Mississippi undermined part of the fort, the British garrison evacuating the same, going to Kaskaskia, where they fortified the abandoned Catholic residence and named it Fort Gage, after General Thomas Gage, the British commandant. Fort Chartres was never again occupied. In 1776 Illinois was placed under the administration of Canada by the Quebec Bill.

Previous to the Revolutionary War the prairies of Illinois had been exempt from bloodshed and the evils of war. The French settlers had enjoyed uninterrupted peace. Religious in their habits, moderate in their desires, they lived in close friendship with the Indians and at harmony among themselves. Kaskaskia was to the Illinois what Paris was and is to France. The Jesuits in 1721 erected here a monastery and college, which was chartered by the French Government.

A learned and well known Illinois historian, while visiting the ruins of old Fort Chartres, said:

"Here one may invoke the shades of Makarty, and De Villiers, and St. Ange, and easily bring back the past. For, as it is today, it has seen them all, as they went to and fro before it, or examined its store of shot and shell. It has heard the word of command as the grenadiers drilled on the parade ground hard by. It has watched the tawny chieftains and their followers trooping in single file through the adjacent gateway; and past its moss-grown walls the bridal processions of Madeline Loisel and Elizabeth Montcharveaux, and the other fair ladies from the fort, have gone to the little Church of Ste. Anne. And gazing at it in such a mood, until all about was peopled with 'the airy shapes of long ago,' and one beheld again the gallant company which laid the foundations of this fortress with such high hope and purpose, the hurrying scouts passing through its portals with tidings of Indian foray or Spanish march, the valiant leaders setting forth from its walls on distant expeditions against savage or civilized foe, the colonists flocking to its storehouse or council chamber, the dusky warriors thronging its enclosure with

Chicago or Pontiac at their head, the gathering there of those who founded a great city, the happy village at its gates, and the scenes of its momentous surrender, which sealed the loss of an empire to France; it seemed not unreasonable to wish that the State of Illinois might, while yet there is time, take measures to permanently preserve, for the sake of memories, the romance and the history interwoven in its fabric, what still remains of old Fort Chartres."

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

In the spring of 1778, during the fourth year of the Revolutionary War, Colonel George Rogers Clark, on orders from Patrick Henry, governor of Virginia, came to the Illinois to attack the then most westward British posts. On June 26 he left the falls of the Ohio, where Louisville now is, and descended the Ohio River in flatboats. His army consisted of only 117 men. Landing near the mouth of Massac Creek, he marched over the prairies of Illinois to Kaskaskia, a distance of 126 miles. Clark says: "On the evening of the 4th of July we got within three miles of the town of Kaskaskia, having a river of the same name to cross to the town. After making ourselves ready for anything that might happen, we marched to a farm that was on the same side of the river, about a mile above the town, took the family prisoners, and found plenty of boats to cross in, and in two hours transported ourselves to the other shore with the greatest silence. * * * I immediately divided my little army into two divisions, ordering one to surround the town. With the other I broke into the fort, secured the governor, Sir Rochblave; in fifteen minutes had every street secured, sent runners through the town, ordering the people on pain of death to keep close to their houses, which they observed, and before daylight had the whole town disarmed."

The Fort Gage that Clark captured was the residence of the Order of Jesuits, which the British when they vacated Fort Chartres in 1772 had fortified, and which the clergy had abandoned in 1766, when the French Government by government edict suppressed their order in France and in the French possessions in America.

Clark's army were a marked people from Virginia and Kentucky. They blazed the trail that civilization was to follow. Many remained in Illinois, making their homes at or near the French settlements.

Many writers of Illinois history have fallen into the error of stating that Fort Gage was on the bluffs across the Kaskaskia River from the town of Kaskaskia. The fort on the hill was the French fort known and named Fort de Kaskaskia. It was completed in 1736 and was a stockade, with a block house at each of its four corners. It was built as a protection to the French citizens of the town of Kaskaskia and in 1760 was rebuilt.

When the news that Illinois was ceded to Great Britain by the French in 1763 was received the French inhabitants, fearing that British soldiers would be quartered there and would become a burden upon the French inhabitants, resolved to destroy Fort Kaskaskia. One night in October, 1766, the citizens of Kaskaskia crossed the Kaskaskia River, ascended the hill, burned the wooden part of the fort, destroyed its magazine and filled the well, completely destroying this ancient fort.

In support of Fort Gage being in the town of Kaskaskia, I refer to a letter dated the 8th day of February, 1778, from Rocheblave, the commandant at Fort Gage, to Sir Guy Carleton. He says:

"I must inform you that the roof of the house of the fort, which is of shingles, is entirely rotten, being made twenty-five years ago, and that it rains in everywhere, although I am continually patching it up. If there is much longer delay in putting on a new roof, a house which has cost more than 40,000 piastres to the Jesuits will be lost."

Colonel George Rogers Clark's capture of Fort Gage and his conquest of the Illinois was bloodless, although destined to play an important part in the future growth and history of our country.

From the day of its conquest by Clark until the signing of the treaty of peace Clark's Virginia and Kentucky soldiers, reinforced by several companies of French settlers who had taken the oath of allegiance, did gallant and active duty in

stemming the eastward march of the savages and their threatened attacks upon our settlements in the Northwest.

Preceding the treaty of peace concluded at Paris in 1783 Great Britain wanted to concede to our new government a domain whose western limits should be the Allegheny Mountains, but our commissioners insisted on the Mississippi River as our western boundary, basing their claim upon Clark's conquest and occupation. Franklin and his colleagues won, and thus was laid the first corner stone in our Nation's westward march.

FATHER PIERRE GIBAULT.

Living at Kaskaskia at this time was one Father Pierre Gibault, priest and vicar general of Quebec. He rendered Colonel Clark important aid in conciliating the French citizens of Illinois. He advanced money to Colonel Clark to aid his destitute troops, for which he was never compensated save by a formal vote of thanks by the Virginia legislature.

Governor Arthur St. Clair, in a report to Thomas Jefferson, then Secretary of State, specially mentioned Father Gibault's service and sacrifices, and Judge John Law said of him:

"Next to Clark and Francis Vigo, the United States are indebted more to Father Gibault for the accession of the states comprised in what was the original Northwest Territory than to any other man."

Colonel George Rogers Clark says of the priest: "From things that I had learned I had some reason to suspect that Mr. Gibault, the priest, was inclined to the American interest previous to our arrival in the country. He had great influence over the people at this period, and post Vincennes was under his jurisdiction. I made no doubt of his integrity to me."

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE.

Up to 1763 the eastern colonists were engaged in many wars with the French and Indians, in all of which they were victorious, and the people had become prosperous and intelligent.

George III coming to the throne of England, began enforcing the laws which had been enacted but not carried

out. He denied the colonists the right to purchase or sell their products to any other country but England. English ships of war were stationed along our coasts and the king's officers broke into houses whenever they saw fit, searching for smuggled goods.

This was the beginning. The long wars England had been engaged in had left her treasury empty. King George sent soldiers over to this country, as he said, to protect the colonists, and required the people to pay the bills. He proposed to tax the colonists. The latter objected to taxation, because they had no representation in parliament. Such great English statesmen as William Pitt and Edmond Burke espoused the cause of the colonists, and Burke, in a speech delivered in parliament, said that if the king undertook to tax the Americans against their will he would find it "as hard a job as the farmer did who tried to shear a wolf instead of a sheep."

But in 1765 parliament passed the stamp act, requiring the colonists to purchase and use stamps on all law and business papers, pamphlets, newspapers, insurance policies, etc. Its enforcement was met with the greatest indignation and resistance. It was during this period that Patrick Henry made his eloquent plea, which was the keynote in future years. The stamp act was repealed, but England then sent soldiers here to be kept at the expense of the colonists, and to raise money necessary for paying the soldiers and the officers of the crown the king imposed a duty on paper, tea, glass, etc. The colonists refused to buy these articles, and in 1773 the citizens of Boston had their celebrated tea party, where over \$100,000 worth of that article was thrown into the sea.

One event led up to another until on April 19, 1775, at Lexington the really first battle of the Revolution was fought, the first British blood shed and the first English grave dug.

The Continental Congress assembled and George Washington was made commander of the Continental Army.

Up to 1776 we see that the colonists were debarred the rights and privileges granted to all other British subjects. With a country rich in everything to further manufacture, they were deprived of the privileges of even making their

clothes and the implements necessary to cultivate the soil. Raising more grain and other farm products than they could use, they could sell only in a British market; wishing to purchase, they were obliged to buy only British goods; taxed without having a voice, the colonists were indeed in a deplorable state.

But the culmination of these ten years' "protestation and petitioning" came in 1776. Representatives of the colonies were in session in Philadelphia at their Congress. June 6 Richard Henry Lee introduced in the Continental Congress that ever memorable resolution, "That these United Colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states." This was seconded by John Adams. The debate lasted from June 7 to July 4. Their deliberations were carried on behind closed doors. In the steeple of the state house was a bell imported from England twenty-three years previous by the provincial assembly of Pennsylvania. It bore this prophetic scriptural text: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." The man in charge of the building was in the steeple and had his boy at the door to let him know when that memorable document, the Declaration of Independence, was signed, and when the boy cried out, "Ring, ring," the bell pealed forth its notes, forever ending British domination. Who can understand the feeling of those patriots who heard the news? It was a joyous event, yet sad. They realized that they were poor and weak in number and that it meant war with the strongest nation on the globe, yet that indomitable spirit and will that had carried them through adversity was still strong, and they dared to do more than they had done.

To tell of the many heroic deeds would fill volumes. Poor as our forefathers were, money could not purchase their patriotism. When Major Andre was returning from a visit to the American Army and had made arrangements with that arch traitor, Benedict Arnold, and had passed the last outposts of the Continental Army and felt safe and free, he was suddenly confronted by three raw country boys and placed under arrest. He offered them gold enough to make them all rich if they would but release him; but poor as they were, their country and her principles were dear to them, and they

turned Andre over to the authorities, and the names of these country youths will live in history. Paulding, Williams and Van Wert will never be forgotten.

ORDINANCE OF 1787.

In the spring of 1787 a number of prominent men of New England formed a company known as the Ohio Company, whose object was to purchase a large tract of land on the Ohio River and form a settlement.

A great number of this company were ex-soldiers of the Revolution and held large amounts of government certificates which they desired to use in the purchase of land.

Dr. Manasseh Cutler, a distinguished scholar of New England, was selected to present the matter and conduct the negotiations. Congress realized that something must be done. The Ohio Company's proposition presented an opportunity to liquidate several million dollars worth of government indebtedness in exchange for land which at that time had but little value. The project also created a new interest in the proposed government for the western territory. Dr. Cutler arrived in New York on July 5, and on the 8th of July a new committee of Congress was appointed.

On the 11th a new ordinance was reported. On the 12th it was amended by the addition of the sixth article, and on the 13th day of July it was passed, receiving the unanimous vote of eight states. This ordinance created the territory into one district, subject, however, to a division when circumstances should make it expedient.

It contained six articles of perpetual compact. Provided for freedom of worship, the writ of habeas corpus and trial by jury, that schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged, and that the territory should be formed into not less than three nor more than five states, and fixed the boundaries of these states, and prohibited slavery in these states.

The western state was to be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio and Wabash Rivers, and a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincennes due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and by the said territorial line to the Lake of the Woods and the Mississippi

River. This state included what now comprises the States of Wisconsin and Illinois.

The ordinance provided, however, that Congress, whenever it should find it expedient, should have authority to form *one* or *two* states in that part of the said territory which lies north of an *east* and *west* line through the *southerly bend* or *extreme* of Lake Michigan. This placed the dividing line between what is now the States of Illinois and Wisconsin 61 miles, 19 chains and 13 links farther south than where the line now is. This territory embraces a surface of 8,500 square miles and now forms the fourteen northern counties of this State, and also a portion of other counties.

The sixth clause of this fundamental charter forever prohibited slavery or involuntary servitude in the said territory otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof such parties shall have been duly convicted.

The sixth clause of the fundamental charter forever prohibited slavery or involuntary servitude in this territory, and though the Constitution of our country adopted two years later, remained silent on the slavery question, its prohibition in the Northwest Territory by the ordinance of 1787 shaped the destiny, not only of the states carved from out that territory, and saved them from the curse of slavery, but afterwards became one of the most potential factors in forever settling this great question.

Daniel Webster said of the ordinance: "We are accustomed to praise the law givers of antiquity; we help to perpetuate the fame of Solon and Lycurgus, but I doubt that one single law, ancient or modern, has produced effects of more distinct, marked and lasting character than the ordinance of 1787."

The first officers of the Northwest Territory were appointed February 1, 1788. General Arthur St. Clair was the Governor. On October 4, 1788, President Washington wrote to Governor St. Clair to proceed as soon as he could with safety to execute the orders of Congress respecting the inhabitants at Post Vincennes, at the Kaskaskia and other villages on the Mississippi. And on March 5, 1790, the Governor went to Kaskaskia. At this time the Illinois had only 920 inhabitants, mostly French and settlers from Virginia. The Illi-

nois country was now established as St. Clair County, and was divided into three districts—Kaskaskia, Prairie du Rocher and Cahokia. A court of common pleas was established, with judges to hold court at each of these places. Governor St. Clair said that he had great difficulty in selecting officers for this court, not a fiftieth man being able to read or write. The Governor and the judges were authorized to adopt laws best suited to the district.

In October, 1778, the assembly of Virginia passed an act to establish a civil and military government for this territory, which they called the County of Illinois, and on December 12, 1778, Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, commissioned John Todd, County Lieutenant of the County of Illinois. Todd reached Kaskaskia in May, 1779, and remained in Illinois only until the latter part of the year 1779.

The government of the Northwest Territory was organized in 1788, and it was not until March 5, 1790, that St. Clair came to the Illinois. The old French court held its last session April 1, 1790. St. Clair on April 27, 1790, established St. Clair County, which included the territory between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. The county was divided into three districts.

In 1795 Randolph County was separated and Kaskaskia was created the county seat and remained so until 1848, when it was removed to Chester.

In 1800, when Indiana Territory was created, it included Illinois. In 1809 Illinois was erected into Illinois Territory, and in 1818 Illinois became a State, and Kaskaskia its capital until 1820.

BOUNDARY LINE.

In 1818 the people of Illinois Territory asked admission to the Union. A bill was introduced in Congress to grant us statehood; it was referred to its proper committee and there was approved.

The northern boundary of our State was fixed as provided in the ordinance of 1787.

At this time Nathaniel Pope of Randolph County was our territorial delegate in Congress. Mr. Pope appeared before the committee and asked to amend the bill granting

Illinois statehood by fixing our northern boundary at the point where it exists today. In his argument he said:

“If her commerce is to be confined to that great artery of communication, the Mississippi, which washes her western border, and to its chief tributary on the south, the Ohio, there is a possibility that her commercial relations with the South may become so closely connected that in the event of an attempted dismemberment of the Union, Illinois will cast her lot with the Southern states. On the other hand, to fix the northern boundary of Illinois upon such a parallel of latitude as would give to the State territorial jurisdiction over the southern shores of Lake Michigan, would be to unite the incipient commonwealth to the states of Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York in a bond of common interest well nigh indissoluble. By the adoption of such a line Illinois may become at some future time the *keystone* to the perpetuity of the Union.”

Had Pope's amendment lost, the fourteen northern counties in Illinois would today have been in the state of Wisconsin.

The possibilities forecast by Pope occurred forty-two years thereafter. The South seceded, but Illinois, largely owing to the influence of the people living in the fourteen northern counties, remained in the Union, and to Illinois' conservative influence is due the fact that our southern neighbor states remained loyal.

At the breaking out of the war Cairo became the strategic point in the West. Nearly 200,000 troops were assembled in that vicinity and sent from there to the front. Illinois and our Nation owe a debt of gratitude to the wisdom and foresight of Nathaniel Pope.

The war story of Illinois is a bright page in our Nation's history. Beginning with the peaceful conquest of the Indians by Father Marquette, our people, though always for peace, have ever been ready to defend our National sovereignty.

In the War for Independence Illinois had only 640 soldiers in the field, yet they did noble service in their numerous encounters with British soldiers and their Indian allies, and thus protected our isolated western settlements. In the

Indian wars in the Illinois in 1810 to 1813 Randolph County furnished three companies of rangers.

In the War of 1812 Illinois furnished a force of 2,357 men, all from southern Illinois, and though no decisive battles were fought on Illinois soil, our troops had a number of important engagements on the Mississippi River and rendered gallant service in their country's cause.

In the Black Hawk War in 1832 Illinois furnished 174 companies. Randolph County sent eight companies, or about 300 men.

During our war with Mexico we sent six regiments, approximately 7,500 men, and the heroic deeds of the gallant troops from Illinois have given imperishable honor to our State. Randolph County sent over 100 men.

Illinois' first settlements were by the French, in the southern part of our State. For sixty-five years the lilies of France floated over our prairies. Missions were established and forts erected, yet when the cross of St. George supplanted the French ensign the population of the Illinois did not exceed 2,000 souls.

The French built the villages of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher and a few smaller settlements, also Fort Chartres. The French occupancy forms an interesting period of our history. They were a happy people, content to take what nature so bounteously furnished, exerting themselves only enough to secure an humble support. "Their traders were after furs, their explorers intent upon discoveries, while their missionaries sought for souls." Theirs is the romantic era of our history, and we owe to them the credit of lighting up the fires of civilization in this Mississippi valley.

But little is left to mark French occupancy from 1700 to 1763. Kaskaskia, the first settlement in the Illinois, our first territorial as well as State capital, now forms the bed of the Mississippi, which in 1892 started to form a new channel and by 1899 had entirely wiped out this ancient village.

The Church of the *Holy Family* at Cahokia, however, is still in a good state of preservation. This is the only example of early French stockade architecture, also the earliest Jesuit mission church in the Mississippi valley.

The powder magazine and the foundation walls of old Fort Chartres have escaped the curiosity hunters, and the little village of Prairie du Rocher, established in 1722, still rests on the American Bottom, nestling at the foot of the rocky bluff from which it derived its name. All these places should be fittingly marked, as well as Paget's and Riley's mills, the home and tomb of Elias Kent Kane, the man who framed our first Constitution and one of our early United States Senators.

AN ILLINOIS PROTEST.

There are, however, several incidents regarding the French citizens during British rule that are worthy of special notice. During the year 1771, while the New England colonists chaffing under British rule were clamoring for liberty, the French settlers of Illinois, seemingly imbued with the same spirit, assembled at Kaskaskia and formulated a demand for a "regular constitutional government for the people of Illinois," and sent the same to General Gage, British commandant at Boston, who endorsed on said petition, "A regular constitutional government for the people of Illinois can not be suggested; they don't deserve so much attention," and forwarded the petition to London. Lord Hillsborough, head of the colonial office, replied, "I agree with you; a regular constitutional government for that district would be highly improper." Lord Dartmouth, who succeeded Hillsborough, seemingly agreed with General Gage. Dartmouth, however, prepared a form of government which he called, "A Sketch of Government for Illinois." It provided that all powers be vested in its officers, who were to be appointed by the crown. It gave no rights to the people.

The news of the new plan spread rapidly among the colonists and met with universal disapproval. Again the citizens of the Illinois met at the village of Kaskaskia to express their disapproval of the new system. Daniel Blouin, a French Canadian, was their leader, and though nearly a thousand miles distant from the Atlantic colonists, though but six years British subjects, these French colonists possessed the true spirit of sons of liberty, and Daniel Blouin was to the Illinois what Adams was to Massachusetts and what Patrick Henry was to Virginia.

Again the Illinois colonists formulated a protest. They were as outspoken as their brethren on the Atlantic coast. They said they regarded Lord Dartmouth's "Sketch of Government for Illinois" as oppressive and absurd, much worse than that of any of the French or even of the Spanish colonies. They further said: "Should a government so evidently tyrannical be established it could be of no long duration. There would exist the necessity of its being abolished." Brave words for this handful of people, far removed from civilization and kindred settlements. The Illinois protest was taken by Blouin to Boston, but it does not seem that any attention was paid it by the British government.

ILLINOIS' DUTY.

I believe that the people of Illinois should not overlook the patriotism of these first citizens of Illinois. A monument near Old Kaskaskia, properly inscribed, should be erected to teach coming generations that the prairies of Illinois at this early date instilled in the breasts of our first people a love of liberty and self-government.

No one can overestimate the value of Colonel George Rogers Clark's conquest. It fixed our then western boundary and shaped the course of our Nation's march to the Pacific coast.

That no appropriate memorial commemorating the deeds of Clark and his brave Americans has been erected at or near Kaskaskia or at Cahokia, is excusable only on the ground of a lack of interest and cooperation on the part of the people of the State of Illinois—a neglect not intentional, but owing solely to the fact that no effort has been made to bring this matter to the attention of our citizens. Our State should fittingly mark this historic ground.

On the State House grounds at Springfield, east of the Capitol, there is a well executed bronze statue of Pierre Menard, one of the most prominent of our pioneer citizens, the only presiding officer of the legislative council during the territorial period and the first Lieutenant Governor of the State. The statue represents Menard in the role of Indian trader, standing erect beside an Indian seated upon a bale of furs, each displaying a sample of his merchandise to the

other. The group is mounted on a granite pedestal about ten feet in height, upon the eastern face of which is the single word "Menard," the only inscription on the monument. The monument was erected in 1885 by Charles Pierre Choteau of St. Louis in recognition of the public services and private virtues of his father's early business associate and lifelong friend.

To another people than the French is due the discovery of the Lower Mississippi. Unlike the Spaniard, who came for gold, silver and precious stones, and whose companions were all soldiers armed for the fray, these later adventurers came clothed in the cassock and bearing as their armor the Cross of Christ, to trade with the natives and to teach them their mission. To the fur trader and the missionary of the French is due the glory of revealing to the world the richness of the soil, the equability of the climate and the wealth and prosperity of the Valley of the Mississippi.

The daring enterprises and the motives that prompted the early explorer and pioneer are worthy of the thought of the ablest mind and most eloquent tongue.

The "Father of Waters" owes its discovery by the European to the thirst for gold that has always characterized the Spanish race. And like all fruits of such ignoble motives, was soon forgotten and gave nothing to aid the forward march of civilized man.

It was a century after DeSoto's body was consigned to the waters of the Mississippi by the haggard, gaunt and half-naked remnant of his band, which had formed the flower of Spanish chivalry, that another people, inspired by higher motives and prompted by holier zeal, entered upon the field of discovery.

America introduced into the political economy of nations the now recognized principle that the government exists for the individual; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their *Creator* with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We also taught the world that man has the right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

At this time we were a little group of thirteen states, with five million people. Our homes were humble, our imple-

ments crude; the arts and sciences almost unknown; with but slight knowledge of our resources and hardly any means of communication. To the west were unexplored forests, plains and inaccessible rivers. Ragged cliffs, whose snow-capped summits lifted themselves skyward as sentinels, guarded the unknown from the march of civilization.

Today the oceans are no longer our natural boundaries. Our flag floats over the distant isles of the tropical seas; our resources are inexhaustible, our achievements in mechanics, science and the arts unmatched; and, as Emerson has said, "We live in a new and exceptional age." America is another name for opportunity. Our whole history appears like a last effort of *Divine Providence* in behalf of the human race.

OUR PRINCIPLES.

The principle for which our soldiers fought is older than our Civil War. It is "*obedience to the will of the majority.*"

When on November 9, 1620, the 41 men, leaders of the party of 102 Puritans who landed on Plymouth Rock, met in the cabin of the Mayflower and drafted their compact, they not only gave to this country its first written constitution, but when they wrote in that covenant that they combined themselves together into a civil body politic, for their better ordering and preservation, and "to enact, constitute and frame just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices from time to time as shall be thought most mete and convenient for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due *submission* and *obedience*," they stated principles which took deep root and eventually gave to America freedom and nationality.

One hundred and fifty-five years later devotion to these principles inspired Patrick Henry to the sentiment, "Liberty or death." Encouraged Washington and his patriot band during the eight years of bloody strife from Lexington to Yorktown, ending in the overthrow of British tyranny, giving to this country National independence.

Eventful and auspicious as was the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers, so dark and disastrous was the landing at Jamestown the year previous of the Dutch slave ship, which unloaded upon our shores its unholy cargo of human freight.

The landing and sale of these twenty black slaves in Virginia was the beginning of a serious controversy that was to last for over two hundred and fifty years.

From the beginning of our national life two doctrines were advocated. In the South it was claimed our Government was a federal union of states and that a state had the right to secede. In the North it was held our Government was a federal republic and that *no state could secede*.

In 1830 Daniel Webster, in reply to John C. Calhoun's speech for secession, but reiterated the principles enunciated in the Mayflower compact, and which the patriots had sealed with the blood of their bare and lacerated feet on the snows of Valley Forge, when he said: "*In a republic there must be either obedience to the laws, or a revolution by the majority of the people to set up a different government.*"

The slavery question grew to be the most important and absorbing one before the American people.

In 1849 the European monarchies had most all liberated their slaves and the eyes of Europe were fastened on America. Victor Hugo wrote of our country: "Liberty is wearing a chain," and "The United States must renounce slavery or they must renounce liberty."

The Kansas-Nebraska bill, passed in 1854 repealing the Missouri compromise, created intense excitement.

William H. Seward said: "We are on the eve of a great national transaction that will close a cycle in the history of our country."

Senator Sumner said: "This bill puts freedom and slavery face to face and bids them grapple."

The struggle and bloody warfare in Kansas, the Dred Scott decision, the enforcement of the fugitive slave laws, and the attack of John Brown on the national arsenal at Harper's Ferry tended to keep the slavery question alive and the minds of the people at fever heat.

The election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 was the cause of rejoicing in the entire North and caused a corresponding gloom over the South.

In a speech made in Cincinnati in September, 1859, Mr. Lincoln said: "A house divided against itself can not endure

permanently half slave and half free.* It will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will push it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the states, old as well as new, North as well as South."

Immediately after the election of Mr. Lincoln the South talked and prepared for secession.

You will search history in vain for any reason in justification of secession. Up to Mr. Lincoln's election there had been no change in the Federal Constitution affecting the right of either section of the republic.

No statute had been enacted by Congress in opposition to a united South or against which its representatives had voted in a body.

No change had been made in the statutes of slavery, but in fact the administration, the legislature, the compromises and the patronage of the Government had steadily been in its interest.

Its area had been broadened by compromises, purchase and conquest.

A law, in the judgment of northern men, of needless severity and downright barbarity, stood unamended and unrepealed upon the statute books and was everywhere enforced in the rendition of fugitive slaves.

There had been no taxation without representation. But, on the contrary, a representation had been given the South to what was claimed as property. There had been no interference with the freedom of the press, of education, of speech, of worship, or of the elective franchise.

CIVIL WAR.

Yet on December 18, 1860, the people of South Carolina met in state convention and on December 20 adopted an ordinance of secession and issued a declaration of independence, asserting: "The union now existing between South Carolina and other states of North America is dissolved."

* Mr. Lincoln had said this same thing, in substance in a speech made in the State House in Springfield June 16, 1858.

On December 28 South Carolina troops occupied Fort Moultrie and Castle Pinckney in Charleston harbor and State troops seized all government buildings and property.

President Buchanan had before him a clearly defined duty, to enforce the authority of the United States, as his predecessors had done, but his blood was thin and ran slowly.

One by one the southern states seceded, and as each one went out of the Union the state authorities seized all national fortifications, post offices and custom houses, but President Buchanan saw no occasion to employ the troops tendered him by the loyal northern states. The Government was going to pieces and he was trembling with fear, not daring to strike, when a single blow might have crushed rebellion and saved the Nation its terrible ordeal of blood.

Sunday, April 14, brought the news that Fort Sumpter had fallen. Then came the terrible consciousness that war was upon us. The Union was assailed, the right of the constitutional majority to rule was denied, and war had begun.

Our flag, that had been honored on all seas, that had afforded sanctuary in all lands, had been insulted and hauled down by home conspirators. "*Obedience to the will of the majority*" had been ignored.

Party lines disappeared, we were again one people, united in the determined purpose of national salvation.

Eleven states, representing the slave states of the South, with their 8,000,000 people, hurled their defiance to the twenty-three Union states, with their 23,000,000 people.

For four years the smoke of battle hung over our land. Four years of agony and gloom between Sumpter and Appomattox.

The fiercest conflict on the greatest battlefields of the world was waged.

Our soldiers fought *not* for conquest, not for glory, not to enrich their empire, not to free the black man, though the black man was freed before they stopped fighting.

They fought for the principles laid down in the compact of the Mayflower, for the principles that kindled the fires of the Revolution—"obedience to the will of the majority."

They fought to preserve our Government, that the Union might live; *for one nation*, instead of *two*.

The people of Illinois have reason to be proud of the record of their soldiers.

In the great strife that forever settled the question of the right of secession, Illinois gave to her country's cause 156 regiments of infantry, 17 regiments of cavalry, 33 batteries of light artillery, 3 independent batteries—a total of 259,092; aggregating on a three-year basis, 210,043 men.

It is estimated that on the Union side, from first to last, 2,200,000 men served, of which number Illinois gave one-tenth; 76,058 were killed in battle, 43,012 died of wounds, 239,874 died of other causes.

Among Illinois' ranks, 5,888 were killed in battle, 3,022 died of wounds, 967 died in rebel prisons, 24,957 died of disease; making our State's total loss by death from all causes during the War of the Rebellion 34,834, a percentage of 16.5.

In this war Randolph County furnished over 1,800 men.

SPANISH WAR.

In 1898, when our country was forced to take up the cause of liberty for the Cuban people and war was declared, Secretary of War Alger on April 25 sent a telegram to John R. Tanner, Governor of our State, saying Illinois' quota of soldiers would be seven regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry, and asking when they could be ready. The next day Governor Tanner wired the Secretary of War that the required regiments would rendezvous at Springfield the next day, the 27th. And at noon of the 27th day of April Governor Tanner wired the Secretary of War that seven regiments of infantry and one regiment of cavalry were in camp at Springfield subject to his orders.

Illinois in this war gave nine regiments of infantry, one of cavalry and one battery, aggregating 13,000 men. Thus, as in the past, the sons of Illinois were ever loyal to respond to their country's call.

Since the War of Independence Illinois has given, for all wars, a total of 233,540 men.

The story of Illinois is an indestructible thread interwoven in the history of our Nation. Beginning fifty years after the landing of the Pilgrim fathers, we find it inhabited

by Indian tribes, forever at war among themselves. Discovered by the French, it was settled by them along our rivers. Here they established missions and thriving villages and for ninety-two years dwelt upon our broad prairies, at peace with themselves and with their savage neighbors.

For years Spain laid claim to our virgin soil. It was the scene of John Law's Mississippi scheme, during which time \$1,000,000 were spent building Fort Chartres, an undertaking that nearly bankrupted the French monarchy.

After seven years' bloody war England gained our country and for thirteen years we were under British rule; then American daring and prowess wrested control from British hands and added our beautiful prairies as a county to the commonwealth of Virginia. We then became part of the Northwest Territory; then part of Indiana territory, and then Illinois.

During all these years and varied changes our prairies have been the theatre upon which the Gaul, the Saxon, the savage, the Protestant and the Jesuit have struggled for mastery. Scarce an acre of our soil that has not been bathed in patriot's blood. No running water but whose banks can tell of deeds of prowess and of daring. No other state is richer in tradition or more lavish in romance and deeds of heroism. Here is, indeed, a land of glorious memory.

Without undervaluing the heroes of the eastern and southern states, we can truly say the story of Illinois and her soldiers teems with deeds of heroism. It is impossible to tell the story of our Civil War except as it carries with it the story of the brave men and women of Illinois.

The American people do well on this day to renew their pledge to an increasing fealty to our soldier dead. The last company of the Grand Army of the Republic will soon march to its final tenting ground. The future may have in store dire and disastrous wars, but I doubt that this Nation, or any other, will ever see such a grand army as was that of the North in the War of the Rebellion. They have left us a priceless heritage.

When on the field of Gettysburg Abraham Lincoln declared our Government to be "of the people, by the people, for the people," he voiced the sentiment of every soldier of

that grand army of the Union and the principles for which they fought and died.

Those principles are just as dear today to the American people as they were during the dire years from '61 to '65.

Obedience to the will of the majority is just as essential now as it was then. We of today should strive equally as hard for the observance of our laws and for the stability of our government as did our soldiers in the Civil War. When questions of state are to be settled our sole purpose should be to so act that we work for the common good.

Today one million of American manhood is across the ocean and on the fields of France. They are battling for world freedom. The history of the world contains stories of inhuman rulers, but in that list from the dawn of creation down to the present time there is none who compares, in brutal savagery, fiendish actions and disregard for human life, as is the case of the German emperor, called the kaiser.

The sending of American soldiers to battle for the stricken European powers, and especially for France, is but repaying a debt we owe the French people.

Seven months after our Declaration of Independence, on February 6, 1778, France acknowledged the independence of the American colonies, and that year signed a treaty of alliance and commerce with the American embassy. The alliance clause was regarded and treated by England as a declaration of war by France, and the two nations immediately began to prepare for hostilities. In the same year Louis XVI, king of France, set about preparing a fleet of ships to aid the colonists. In the same year Admiral De Grasse at the head of a French squadron sailed for America.

In 1777 the young Marquis de LaFayette fitted out a ship at his own expense, and with Baron de Kalb and other French officers, came to America, tendering their swords and their services to General Washington.

When Cornwallis in 1781 surrendered at Yorktown, with General Washington were the Marquis de LaFayette, Rochambeau with 6,000 French troops, and the French fleet in the harbor under De Grasse.

America owes a debt of gratitude to France, and as Americans we should feel proud and honored that our country

in this hour of France's peril is furnishing the aid that will win this war.

KASKASKIA.

Today Kaskaskia is only a name, a memory of the past. Only two houses remain of this ancient village. The old town was the center of civilization in the Mississippi valley. From 1809 to 1818 it was the territorial capital. From 1818 to 1820 it was the first State capital.

From its church belfry there pealed the notes of the first church bell rung west of the Allegheny Mountains. It was there that in 1721 the first Catholic Church and College was erected, and a little over one hundred years later the Convent of the Ladies of Visitation was established in 1833. Three years later, in 1836, Menard Academy for Ladies was established, and it is worthy of special mention that this academy was chartered by the State of Illinois and that everyone of the incorporators was a woman. It was here in 1825 that America's friend, LaFayette, was entertained. From March 26, 1804, to November 12, 1855, it was a United States Land Office. Here, December 6, 1768, the first Court of Common Law Jurisdiction in the Mississippi Valley was held, and in May, 1779, the first election was held for civil officers. The convention that framed Illinois' first Constitution met here on August 3, 1818, and completed its labors August 26, 1818. The first trial by jury was held here in 1780. The jury was composed of eight Frenchmen, seemingly illiterate, as they all made their mark to their signatures.

Randolph County and Kaskaskia furnished many men famous in our State's history; notably, Gen. John Edgar; Samuel Seeley and John Doyle, the first school teachers in Illinois; Israel Dodge, father of a United States Senator from Wisconsin and grandfather of an Iowa United States Senator; William Morrison, for years the leading merchant in the West; Pierre Menard, the first Lieutenant Governor; John Rice Jones, Illinois' first lawyer; Shadrach Bond, our first Governor under statehood; Nathaniel Pope, who saved to Illinois our fourteen northern counties, and was afterwards a United States Judge, and the father of General Pope, famous in the Civil War; Elias Kent Kane, the first Secre-

tary of State, a United States Senator from this State, and the man who drafted our first Constitution; Sidney Breese, for many years a Judge of our Supreme Court, and a United States Senator; Ninian Edwards, our Territorial Governor, and afterwards Governor of the State; Jesse Burgess Thomas, who as United States Senator from Illinois drafted and introduced in the Senate the Missouri Compromise; General James Shields, Civil War hero, and afterwards a United States Senator from two states; and many others whose names are interwoven with the early history of Illinois.

The most eloquent orator that ever aroused an American audience and appealed to the true patriotism of the American people is that silent emblem, the Stars and Stripes. The heart of every American, native or foreign born, swells at sight of that bunting, with its red and white stripes and its blue corner dotted with its white stars. Why is it that an insult to our flag is more quickly resented than insult to ourselves? Why is it that we place it in the most conspicuous place in our gatherings and give to it the place of honor at the front in all our processions? Why float it over our school houses? Because it is the flag that our forefathers fought for and gained American independence and established an American republic, the grandest government that ever existed, and one emblematical of a free people and equal rights. It is this flag that led the advance during the long conflict that ended in an American nation. It is this flag that has floated from the masthead in all our naval victories; that has led our soldiers to the front and won our cause, and it is this flag that has been steeped in heroes' blood. Thousands have fallen to maintain its honor and the principles it stands for, and for this reason every American's heart quickens and his eye becomes brighter, his impulse better when he sees Old Glory. Every American should teach to his child the history of our flag, for it is the history of our Nation and the fountain from which we draw our patriotic inspiration.

As our flag is the emblem of our Government and its principles, standing for the highest civilization, with equality to all; emblematic of our Nation's birth, bearing in its folds the records of our heroes' victories, its folds bathed in our patriots' blood, it is our sacred duty to teach our youth its

history—how it was maintained in the past, how it must be upheld in the years to come. Teach them to honor it, to cherish its history, to love its stars and stripes, and we will teach our children to love their country. Love of country is patriotism. It makes good citizens. It makes a stable, intelligent nation, and it will keep our country where God intended the United States should be—the leader of nations.

I believe that the founding of the government of the United States was an act of Divine Providence. Our history upholds the thought. One hundred and forty-two years ago John Adams, one of the drafters of the Declaration of Independence, said of this day:

“I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to Almighty God. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illumination from one end of this continent to the other, from this time and forever.”